

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 SSO-00 /084 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: RELEASE OF PRP PRISONERS

HELD IN TANZANIA

REF: DAR 1911

1. WE HAVE FROM BEGINNING KEPT FULLY IN MIND POSSIBILITY
OF SEEKING APPROVAL OF GOT (PRESUMABLY WITH GOZ CONCURRENCE)
FOR RELEASE OF ONE OR MORE PRISONERS. MOST IMPORTANT ELE-
MENT IN OUR THINKING HAS BEEN QUESTION OF TIMING,I.E.,
WHAT IS BEST TIME TO PRESS FOR SUCH RELEASE NOT ONLY IN
RELATION TO EXPECTATION OF FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM GOVTS.
BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHEN SUCH ACTION WOULD HAVE MOST FAV-
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ORABLE IMPACT IN MOVING NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD TO AGREEMENT

BY PRP REBELS TO FREE STUDENTS.

2. RELEASE OF A PRISONER NOW, AS SUGGESTED BY DUTCH AMBASSADOR (REFTEL), WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY A GOOD WILL GESTURE. IT APPEARS THAT HE MADE SUGGESTION PRIOR TO ANYONE'S HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF APPARENT PRP INITIATIVE IN SENDING AN EMISSARY TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH OUR SIDE (DAR 1917). WE BELIEVE THAT SUGGESTION HAS PERHAPS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY THE PRP INITIATIVE, AND THUS THE NEED FOR ANY SUCH GESTURE AT THIS TIME MAY NO LONGER EXIST. AS MINIMUM, WE BELIEVE, BE-

FORE ATTEMPTING TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT PRISONERS, WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL WE RECEIVE FOLLOW-UP WORD FROM PRP IN RESPONSE TO MESSAGE WHICH PRP EMISSARY IS CARRYING BACK TO REBEL CAMP.

3. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT DEMAND FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS IS ONLY ONE ON WHICH THERE MAY BE SOME FLEXIBILITY ON PART GOT AND/OR GOZ. (WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED ON THIS SCORE BY REFERENCES TO THIS MATTER IN SUCH TELEGRAMS AS DAR 1706, 1736 AND 1790 AND KINSHASA 4413, AS WELL AS BY FACT MOBUTU MADE NO REFERENCE TO PRISONER DEMAND IN ASKING FOR CERTAIN ASSURANCES FROM SECRETARY AS BASIS FOR AGREEING TO COOPERATE WITH USG.) THUS, WE MAY BE REACHING POINT SOON WHERE RELEASE OF ONE OR MORE PRISONERS IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL PROLONGATION OF DIALOGUE OR TO ASSURING RELEASE OF STUDENTS. AT THAT TIME WE WOULD MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT WITH BOTH GOZ AND GOT ON PRISONER ISSUE.

4. SUBJECT ANY COMMENTS ADDRESSEES, WE SUGGEST

AMBASSADOR CARTER DISCUSS ABOVE VIEWS WITH DUTCH AMBASSADOR. WE AGREE FULLY WITH DAR COMMENT THAT DUTCH WOULD BE EXCELLENT CHOICE TO MAKE PITCH TO NYERERE AT WHATEVER TIME IS MUTUALLY AGREED IS MOST APPROPRIATE. KISSINGER

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